

SUPPORT DISPLAY OF TEN COMMANDMENTS IN COURTROOMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. SCARBOROUGH] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I come before this Chamber today to give my strongest commendations to the Congressman from Alabama [Mr. ADERHOLT], who is coming forward with a resolution today supporting the placement of the Ten Commandments in a courtroom in his home State of Alabama.

A lot of people might ask, why do you need to actually pass a resolution supporting the placement of the Ten Commandments in a courtroom in America, because after all, there are two copies of the Ten Commandments at the Supreme Court of the United States. Right in this Chamber, as you walk out, the same door that the President walks in, above that is a bust of Moses who brought the Ten Commandments down from Mount Sinai.

I mean let us face it. Even though the radicals of the past 30 years do not like to admit it, that is a great part, the Ten Commandments are a great part of our American heritage. In fact, the very radicals who claim to try to tear God out of our public life, out of our courtrooms, out of our schools, any mentioning of it at all, who want to censor God and censor those who believe in the importance of faith and this country's destiny, they claim to do it because they want to protect the Constitution, and yet the father of the Constitution, James Madison, stated while he was drafting the Constitution:

We have staked the entire future of the American civilization not upon the power of government, but upon the capacity of the individual to govern himself, to control himself and sustain himself according to the Ten Commandments of God.

That was the father of the Constitution that said that, so why would the ACLU types respond to that? And would they call George Washington un-American? Would they call George Washington a radical when he stood up at his Farewell Address and said, "It is impossible to govern rightly without God and the Ten Commandments." Or would they call Abraham Lincoln a radical, a dangerous reactionary who in 1863 in a proclamation wrote:

We have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown, but we have forgotten God. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace and too proud to pray to the God that made us.

Tom Hayden and Abbie Hoffman and those who were running around in the streets in the 1960's that eventually became tenured professors and lawyers for the ACLU might not like history, and maybe that explains why they have been trying to revise history and trying to build a bridge to the 21st cen-

tury that would cut America off from its past heritage.

It is dangerous. It is dangerous because it creates a valueless void that allows the words of Madonna, the actions of Dennis Rodman, and the life of Larry Flynt to replace the very ideas in our civilization and in our society that Washington, Jefferson, Madison, and Lincoln built the bedrock of this great Republic upon.

If Americans scratch their head and wonder why we are having ethical problems in Washington and in State capitals across the country and in universities, why there are cheating scandals, why violence is breaking out in the inner cities at an unprecedented rate, they do not have to look any further than the fact of what Abraham Lincoln said over 100 years ago.

We have got to stop denying the existence of a faith that our Founding Fathers built this Republic upon and were not ashamed to state that.

Forget about religion. We do not want to establish a national religion. But we also do not want to hide our eyes from an American heritage that made us what we have been in the past and what we as Americans can be once again.

EAST TIMOR SHOULD BE HIGHER PRIORITY FOR U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. WOLF] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased today to see the editorial, which I will submit for the RECORD, in the Washington Post about East Timor. Like many issues in Washington, one minute it is hot and the next minute it is not. The editorial writer cautions, "The Nobel Peace Prize brought a brief flare of publicity to East Timor's just but long neglected case, and then, just as Indonesia's government hoped, world tension turn elsewhere."

But we must not let East Timor drop off the radar screen. For over 20 years the people there have suffered and fought for their human rights, and it would be immoral to let them down now. The United States needs to focus on this issue more. We need to make it a higher priority with regard to our foreign policy.

In November, Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo shared the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize and he was nominated for the prize by our colleague, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HALL]. He was nominated for his efforts to encourage peace, reconciliation and human rights.

In January, I had the opportunity to visit Bishop Belo in East Timor. I found people were scared, scared of being arrested in the middle of the night; scared of being tortured; scared of disappearing without a trace. People I talked to had had family members

who were killed or who had disappeared. We heard reports of police breaking into homes in the middle of the night and arresting young people. We met one young man whose ear had been slashed by the Indonesian security forces. People were afraid to talk to us, ever conscious of the pervasive military and security presence on the island. I felt like I was back in Romania in 1985 under the tyranny of Nicolae Ceausescu.

Last week I met with Jose Ramos Horta, who shared the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize with Bishop Belo. He came to Washington to raise awareness of the conflict and told stories of torture and repression on the island.

The United States, and the administration in particular, has an obligation to illustrate to the world that campaign donations have nothing to do with their policy in this region. We have an obligation to speak out and use our influence with the Indonesian Government.

We should encourage Jakarta to negotiate a peaceful settlement and in the meantime reduce the repressive and heavy-handed police presence on the island. We should urge them to allow human rights monitors. We should appoint a prominent American to work on this issue full time. This person would enhance the good work already being done by the United Nations and U.S. Ambassador Stapleton Roy. A more aggressive diplomatic effort by the U.S. Government is needed.

I have raised this issue with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and National Security Advisor Sandy Berger. I have urged them to prioritize this issue in U.S. foreign policy. But I rise today to urge anyone who cares about East Timor to do the same.

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I urge Members of Congress, religious leaders, human rights activists and anybody who is concerned, contact Secretary Albright, contact Sandy Berger at the White House and urge them to focus on this issue. Write them. Call them. Fax them. These are the people in our Government who will be looking at this issue. These are the people who need to know that Americans care.

The East Timorese are entitled to decide for themselves who they want to run their affairs. Mr. Ramos-Horta is calling for a plebiscite, a referendum. This is an idea worth considering. In the meantime they are entitled to live in peace and without fear of repression. Encouraging the Indonesian Government to resolve this conflict once and for all is the least we can do as a country dedicated to freedom and justice and democracy. This is an important issue for the United States. It is an important issue for the people of East Timor, who have suffered for 20 years. Let President Clinton, let Secretary Albright, let Mr. Berger know that you care.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the editorial to which I referred: